Shoujo Sense
嘘解きレトリック
Usotoki Rhetoric
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都戸利津
4
Chapter 17
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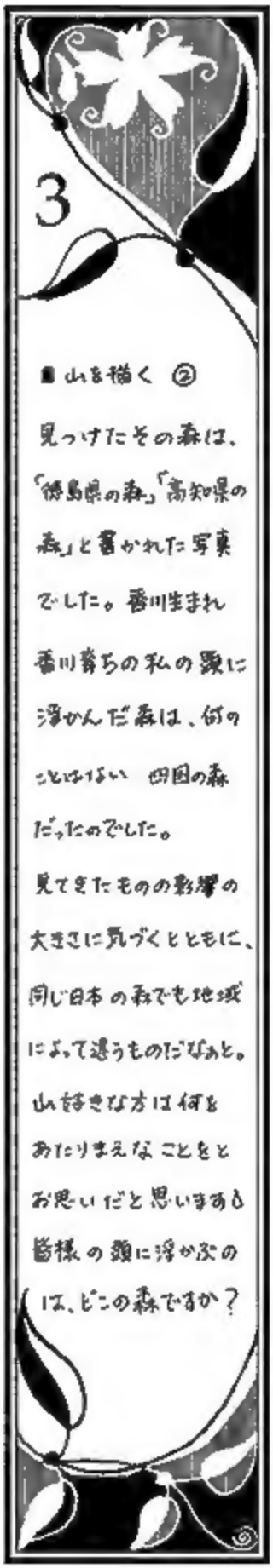
第十七話
Chapter 17

This person
is hiding the fact that she saw Hanasaki-san.
I SEE.
He's lying, but...
REALLY? I'M SORRY WE COULDN'T BE OF ANY HELP...
WE'LL LOOK FOR HIM SOMEWHERE ELSE, THEN.
HE PROBABLY DRANK SOMEWHERE AND IS NOW JUST COMING BACK HOME.
I'M SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU SO EARLY IN THE MORNING.
This means,

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US.
the detective has thought of something.
OH, YOU WERE ABLE TO EAT EVERY-THING THIS MORNING.
...I GUESS SO.
THAT WISH CAME TRUE!
YEP! AMAZING, RIGHT?

SFX: BOO
!!!
NATSU-SAN.
SFX: CLATTER ZX
カラ
カラ
SFX: CLOSE
パタン
THE... GUESTS? I WAS TOLD THAT YOU WERE LEAVING?
NOPE.
I JUST WANTED TO ASK YOU SOME-THING.
LIM,
WHAT IS IT...?

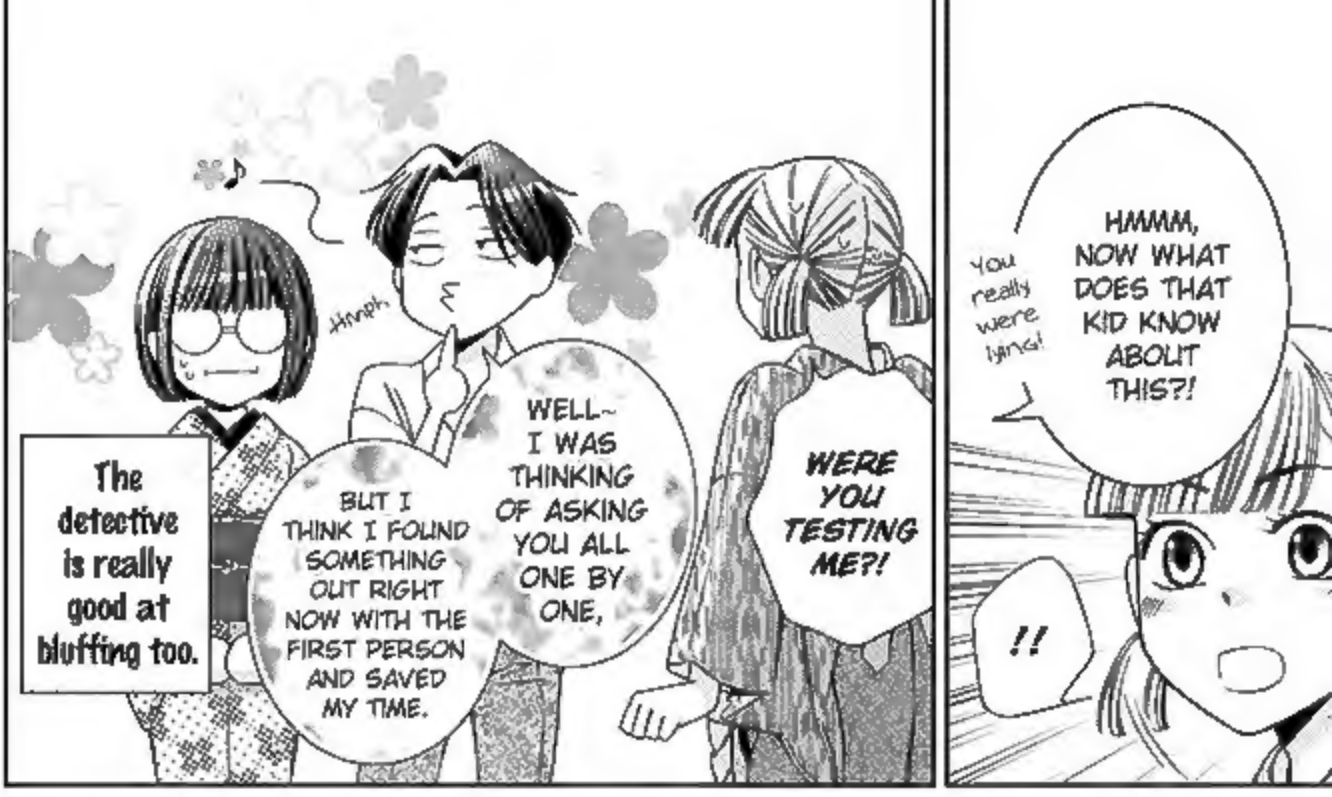

3
■山を描く ②
見つけたその森は、「徳島県の森」「高知県の森」と書かれた写真でした。香川生まれ香川育ちの私の頭に浮かんだ森は、何のことはない 四国の森だったのでした。
見てきたものの影響の大きさに気づくとともに、同じ日本の森でも地域によって違うものだなぁと。
山好きな方は何をあたりまえなことをとお思いだと思いますが皆様の頭に浮かぶのは、どこの森ですか？

YOU,
MET KAORU, DIDN'T YOU.

AND I THINK,
YOU KNOW
HOW WE FOUND OUT THAT YOU WERE LYING.

HEAR IT FROM THE YOUNG MASTER?

...DID YOU...


The detective is really good at bluffing too.
Hmph.
BUT I THINK I FOUND SOMETHING OUT RIGHT NOW WITH THE FIRST PERSON AND SAVED MY TIME.
WELL~ I WAS THINKING OF ASKING YOU ALL ONE BY ONE,
WERE YOU TESTING ME?!
You really were lying!
HMMM, NOW WHAT DOES THAT KID KNOW ABOUT THIS?!
!!

THAT I LET THE YOUNG MASTER OUT OF THE HOUSE.
I DIDN'T WANT THE OTAKA-SAN AND THE MASTER TO KNOW
WHY ARE YOU HIDING THE FACT THAT YOU MET KAORU?

But the young master kept insisting, so I let him out and asked him to keep it a secret.
Yesterday, the master was busy with work so I couldn't get the chance to ask him for permission.
So he is not allowed to go outside the house.
The young master is in very poor health.

EXCUSE ME.
YOU WANT TO GO TO THE MOUNTAIN-TOP?!
YOU PROMISED YOU WOULDN'T GO FAR!
And then,
WE HAVE TO GO BACK...
THEN YOU GO BACK.
IS THERE A PROBLEM HERE?
I met Hanasaki-san, who came to pick irises.
My name is Hanasaki.
I'm not some shady guy,
YOU'RE GOING TO WISH ON THE WHITE MOON?
WHEN YOU WISH ON THE WHITE MOON WHEN YOU'RE AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN NEAR OUR HOUSE,
THE WISH WILL BE GRANTED.
LOOK,
THE WHITE MOON IS COMING OUT.

I WANT TO WISH FOR A HEALTHIER BODY!
WE HAVE TO GO BACK.
THIS ISN'T GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH.
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO MAKE A WISH!
OH, I haven't heard of it before.
I'VE READ ABOUT THAT TOO,
BUT,
I WILL TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF WISHING ON THE WHITE MOON.
FOR YOU TO HAVE BETTER HEALTH.
I'LL DO IT FOR YOU.
For me?
whew!
OKAY!
OKAY?
SO PLEASE,
GO BACK HOME.

IT WAS REALLY JUST THAT.
HE PROBABLY JUST SAID HE WAS GOING TO THE MOUNTAIN,
MAYBE SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HANASAKI-SAMA AFTER THAT.
SO THAT THE YOUNG MASTER WOULD GO HOME.
Me and the young master went back to the house.
Please!
She's not lying.
BUT IT WOULDN'T EVEN TAKE AN ADULT TWO HOURS TO CLIMB IT AND GO BACK DOWN.
MAYBE SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM.
WELL,
IT REALLY IS A MOUNTAIN,
THAT'S ...

DID HE REALLY GO TO MAKE THAT WISH...?
KAORU SAID HE WAS GOING TO GO, RIGHT?
HE PROBABLY JUST SAID IT SO THE YOUNG MASTER WOULD GO HOME...
KAORU,
ISN'T THE KIND OF GUY WHO WILL LIE ABOUT THAT.
Okay!
Let's go Kanako-kun
bow

"I didn't see him."
"I didn't want the Otaka-san and the master to know."

"Yes, it did."
He probably just said it to get the young master to come back home..
I think that was worked!

THIS LOOKS LIKE THE PEAK
I CAN'T SEE A TRACE OF KAORU PASSING BY HERE

BUT IF HE WAS PLANNING TO TAKE THE TRAIN BACK HOME, HE SHOULD BE GOING BACK THIS SAME PATH.
MAYBE HE WENT DOWN THAT PATH ON THE OTHER SIDE
THE TRAIL IS MADE WELL ENOUGH THAT YOU WOULDN'T TRIP AND FALL
AND THERE'S NO SIDE TRAIL THAT HE COULD LOSE HIS WAY IN
WHAT TRAIL
DID WE PASS THROUGH TO GET HERE?
DETEC-TIVE,
Another one
Huh?
THIS ONE
BY THE SIDE OF THAT TREE
THAT LOOKS LIKE A "VI"
Could it be?
SO KAORU,
TOOK THE WRONG ROUTE HOME...!!

YOU SHOULD GO BACK, KANOKO. THE FOOTING HERE ISN'T GOOD.
キッ
THE TRAIL DISAP-PEARED
BUT ONCE HE NOTICED HE MADE A WRONG TURN HE WOULD PROBABLY GO BACK.
SFX RUSTLE 2X
DID YOU HEAR SOME-THING?
WHAT...
KANOKO-KUN, WATCH OUT!!
HEEEEEEEY!
That voice!
SFX RUSTLE
カサ
DETECTIVE, IT'S HANA-SAKI-SAN!
BELOW...

KANOKO-KUN!

DON'T MOVE!

D-

SFX CRACK

DE-TEC-TIVE

DE-TEC-TIVE, THAT BRANCH

RUSTLE

There's nothing to stop on.

I'm

fall-

SFX RUSTLE

Huh?

SFX THUMP

SFX GRAB

PLEASE GRAB MY SHOULDER!
Sorry
Uhhhh ...
Ah.
Harasaki-san?!
YOU CAN LET HER GO, SOUMA!
I'LL CATCH HER!

IT'S NOT ABOUT HER BEING HURT, KAORU
ARE YOU HURT?
NO, THANK YOU!
Sorry
SO YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME...
IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?!
HOW LONG WERE YOU GOING TO MAKE ME WAIT FOR THAT UNAGI...?!

YES, YESTERDAY
I TOOK THE WRONG TURN AND SLIPPED ON MY WAY BACK
DID YOU ALSO FALL FROM THERE, HANASAKI-SAN?
I WAS THINKING OF WAITING UNTIL MORNING TO FIND MY WAY BACK
WHEN I GAINED CONSCOUSNESS IT WAS ALREADY DARK
I TRIED TO PROTECT THE BOOK I JUST BORROWED AND FELL TERRIBLY
No! The book!
AND I SPRAINED MY ANKLE
UWAAAAAAH
OSHHHH
BUT,
UNLIKE YOU, I FELL STRAIGHT DOWN.
I HEARD SOMEONE NEARBY, SO I CALLED OUT
WHEN I REALIZED WHAT WAS HAPPENING,
YOU HAVE TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL!!!
EEEEK!!
BUT THEN THIS HAPPENED
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT

THERE'S NOT MUCH FOOTHOLD AND WE'RE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE TERRAIN.
AND IT WOULD BE HARD FOR US TO CARRY HIM UP THERE.
THAT'S TRUE, BUT HOW IS HE GOING TO GET UP THERE WITH THAT ANKLE?
It was all so sudden.
OK THEN.
I'M GOING TO GO AHEAD.
YOU TWO WAIT HERE.
USELESS
LUGGAGE
yes
I'm sorry
I'M SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU BOTH SO MUCH TROUBLE AGAIN.

DID YOU ASK THE BOY WHERE I WAS?
NO. WE TALKED TO NATSU-SAN. I THINK SHE WAS HIS CARE-TAKER.
"Is it true...?"
BUT SHE THOUGHT YOU ONLY MADE THAT PROMISE TO THE BOY SO THAT HE WOULD GO HOME.
I ALWAYS TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT I SAY!
flip
Just like always!
Do what you think is right and accept the results.
Respons-ibility for his actions...
YOU ARE AN ADMIRABLE PERSON, HANASAKI-SAN.
SOUMA BELIEVED IT, DIDN'T HE?

That.
HE DIDN'T DOUBT ME ONE BIT
"He's not the kind of person who would do this."
"You broke it!"
"It just fell on its own."
AT THE ANTIQUES STORE YESTERDAY
NO MATTER HOW UNBELIEVABLE MY EXPLANATION WAS
that was because
Hanasaki-san isn't lying.
of my power...
HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT FOR A VERY LONG TIME

But
SOUMA HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED IN ME FROM THE BEGINNING.
even if it was hearsay.
"Kaoru said he was going, right?"
wasn't lying,
even if the caretaker
I'm sure
"For him to bail out on a promise,
without even any sort of contact,"
"Kaoru,
he believed in Hayasaki-san.
isn't the kind of guy who will lie about that."

"means he's probably in a situation where he can't contact us."
he would have believed
Hanasaki-san at that antiques shop
"He's not someone who would lie about it."
Even if I wasn't there.
THAT'S WHY
I'D LIKE TO LIVE UP
TO THAT KIND OF TRUST.

The detective wasn't just
"He said he was going here yesterday night."
"He wasn't lying."
relying on my powers.
It's the power of people believing in people.
And it really is this strong.
Huff
Huff
...AH.

I have to hurry.
HEY!
My feet...
SFX HUFF 6X
MY LEGS
SFX WOBBLE 6X
My legs...
TENTEN-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU
I HEARD FROM NATSU,
THAT YOU WENT HERE TO LOOK FOR KAORU-KUN.
I THINK MY SON ASKED FOR TOO MUCH FROM HIM.
KAORU-KUN'S FRIEND!
THANK GOODNESS. I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

THE GRASS HERE HAS GROWN QUITE THICK SO IT'S GOTTEN DANGEROUS TO GO THROUGH.
SO I WONDERED IF KAORU-KUN WAS STUCK HERE IN THE MOUNTAIN.
Is he there Ten-chan?
I BROUGHT SOME HELP WITH ME TOO.
YOU SAVED US.
KAORU... IS HERE. HE HURT HIS FOOT
Huff
HE'S HURT?!
WHERE IS HE?!
I'LL TAKE YOU TO HIM.
NATSU!
GO BACK AND CALL A DOCTOR!
YES!

THANK YOU.

SOUMA.
I'M REALLY SORRY...
MY LEGS ARE WOBBLING, I'M SO EXHAUSTED.
AHHH JEEZ.

I'M SORRY ABOUT THE UNAGI.
LET'S RESCHEDULE. I PROMISED I'LL TREAT YOU!
My power
OF COURSE YOU SHOULD! I'LL WAIT UNTIL YOU HEAL THAT FOOT.
SO DO IT QUICKLY!
I WILL!
of being able to detect

compared to the power
other people's lies,
is such a minor power
of someone truly believing in someone else.
YOU REALLY ARE

AN INCREDIBLY UNLUCKY PERSON.
10 days later
IS YOUR FOOT NOW AN UNAGI~?!!
HAS YOUR FOOT HEALED?!
HANA-SAKI-SAN!
I'LL GO TREAT YOU BOTH TO UNAWAKA AS PROMISED.
MY FOOT ISN'T AN UNAGI BUT IT HAS HEALED.
WALK STRAIGHT BOTH OF YOU!
鰻若
鰻若
SIGN: UNAWAKA

SFX: FLAP FLAP
ぱたぱた
This is really selfish of me but I'm closing this shop. - Unawaka
I HEARD THE OWNER GOT CAUGHT FOR GAMBLING.
AND HE WENT ON A RAMPAGE WHEN THEY ARRESTED HIM.
I HEARD PEOPLE GOT INJURED ...
TOO BAD. THEIR FOOD WAS SO GOOD...
Hanasaki-san's bad luck
THIS IS BECAUSE OF YOU AND YOUR STUPID INJURY!!
HOW THE HELL WOULD MY INJURY CAUSE THE RESTAURANT TO CLOSE?!
seems to be massive.
Skreeow!
第十七話／おわり
Chapter 17 / END